

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) has prepared the Hanford Cultural Resource Management Plan (HCRMP) in response to the following direction from DOE Headquarters:

That a cultural resources management plan is developed and fully implemented at all DOE facilities and contractor-operated facilities. Using the *Environmental Guidelines for Development of Cultural Resource Management Plans, August 1995*, as a resource, each plan must appropriately reflect local concerns (DOE 2001).

This plan replaces the management plan prepared in the late 1980s (Chatters 1989), which became outdated in light of new federal requirements and changes in Hanford Site missions. This new plan describes the approach that DOE has developed for the Hanford Site to comply with federal laws, Presidential Executive Orders, the DOE Cultural Resource Policy, and other requirements. The plan provides guidance and strategies for protecting cultural resources specific to Hanford. The guidelines and strategies have been developed based on Hanford's unique cultural resources and in consultation with tribes; interested public; and state, local, and other federal agencies who have a desire to ensure the protection of resources that are intimately linked to our shared heritage. While the guidelines and strategies reflect current practices, other practices may also be used. DOE-RL intends to continue to refine its cultural resources program to ensure that it is based on complying with requirements.

This HCRMP describes the DOE-RL Hanford Cultural and Historic Resources Program, including its short-term and long-term goals, past accomplishments, methods, and procedures. The roles and responsibilities of program participants, the regulations that drive the compliance-based work, the activities that require cultural resource consideration, the strategies put in place to ensure agency compliance, and the activities planned for the future to ensure important places are protected, are also presented. Adherence to these guidelines will minimize the impact of Hanford Site operations on cultural resources and on the free exercise of Native American religions.

This HCRMP applies to all portions of the Hanford Site where cultural resource management activities take place. These areas include central Hanford and portions of the river corridor that are managed either by DOE's Richland Operations Office or DOE's Office of River Protection. The HCRMP does not apply to areas being managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unless activities in these areas are DOE undertakings. Those lands will be managed under plans prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.